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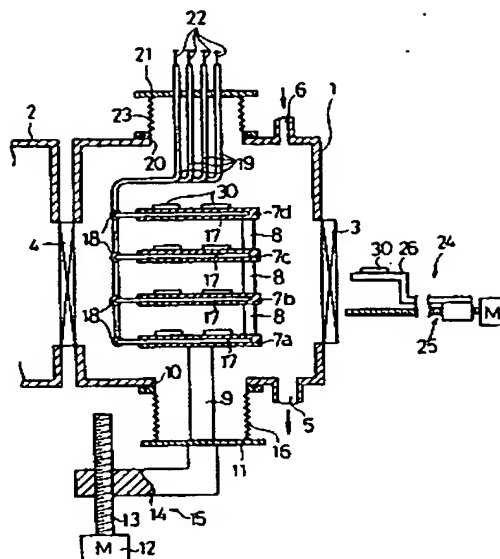
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APPLICANT : MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD;

INVENTOR : KAWA HIDETOSHI;

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TITLE : VACUUM HEATING PROCESSOR



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To increase the capacity of the elements to be processed while enhancing vacuum exhausting efficiency and heating efficiency by a method wherein multiple heating plates arranged at intervals in the vertical direction in a vacuum chamber are lifted and lowered.

CONSTITUTION: In order to deliver substrates 30 into a vacuum chamber 1, the inside of the vacuum chamber 1 is made in a state of atmospheric pressure and a gate 3 is opened and then the levels of respective heating plates 7a-7d are equalized with the level of an arm 26 of an unloading means 24. After finishing the delivery of the substrates 30 to the heating plates 7a-7d, the gate 3 is closed; reducing gas is led-in from a gas leading-in port 6 and exhausted from an exhaust port 5 to vacuumize the vacuum chamber 1 in specific vacuum state again with the reducing atmosphere. At this time, the vacuum chamber 1 in relatively less volume in comparison with the capacity of the substrates 30 can be vacuumized in the specific vacuum state within relatively short time so that the vacuum exhaustion efficiency, heating efficiency and processing capacity may be enhanced.

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